

Geese prefer to feed on cool-season grasses, such as rye. People living in areas where geese are a problem should not plant cool season grasses if they want to prevent geese from feeding in their yard during fall and winter.

● SCARE DEVICES

Scare devices and techniques also can help rid areas of nuisance geese. Some common methods include: scarecrows, flagging, explosives or noise makers (scare pistols), balloons and dogs. These techniques are easy to use, but are more effective and last longer if several methods are used together. Harassment devices also work better if their location is changed within the nuisance area once or twice a week. When properly applied, these techniques can be effective within 3-5 days. More difficulty will be encountered when geese have been using an area for long periods of time.

- A cheap and effective method, especially when paired with an alternate technique. Flags consist of a 3'x 2' piece of black plastic or mylar stapled to a wooden stake. The plastic will flap in the breeze and scare geese away.

- Helium-filled, mylar balloons can be attached to a wooden

post with 10-20 lb. monofilament and placed around the area where geese are causing problems. The balloons will flap in the breeze and scare geese away. This method is effective, but can be expensive when covering large areas.

- Explosive devices fired from shotguns or scare pistols also can be used to scare geese away. Shells should be fired in the air directly above the geese when they are feeding or approaching the problem area. This tactic is especially effective when paired with flagging or balloons. Extra precautions should be taken when using this method. Check with neighbors and consult local ordinances prior to use.

● TRAINED DOGS

Trained dogs are another effective, yet expensive technique. Dogs have proven effective on golf courses and developed areas in urban settings where noisemakers or other scare devices may be unsuitable. Herding breeds can be trained to chase geese and they are very effective. Groundskeepers or landscape personnel can keep the dogs with them and release the dogs to chase any geese they encounter. Repeated harassment by the dogs will deter the geese from using the area, and the geese will eventually move off the site completely.

● REPELLENTS

Chemical repellents are another option, especially for golf courses or well-maintained yards. Several chemical repellents are commercially available for use with nuisance geese. Apply according to label directions for proper effectiveness. In general, repellents are sprayed on the grass to make it less attractive to geese. Some repellents are water-based and should be reapplied following routine mowing or rainfall. Repellents can be effective, but can get expensive if used for extended periods of time. Repellents are most effective on geese that are using an area for the first time, and not on those that have become habituated to the site.

● SPECIAL PERMITS

There are permits available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or WRD for use in certain nuisance cases during specific times of the year. Landowners wishing to reduce Canada goose reproduction on their property can sign up for a permit to destroy goose nests and eggs by visiting the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/permits to acquire their authorization. In other situations, WRD staff may be able to issue special permits to have geese removed from the property. For more information on these permits, please call the WRD office near you.

CHANGES IN FOOD SOURCES

Many people, especially those in subdivisions, feed bread, corn or other grains to Canada geese. In addition to promoting nuisance problems, this type of feeding can lead to serious waterfowl diseases. To prevent these problems, do NOT feed geese.

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